

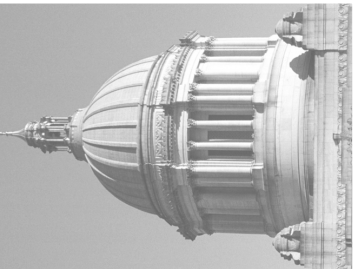
Representative Dave Upthegrove

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Rep. Dave Upthegrove

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Olympia, WA 98504-0600



KEEPING THE REGION MOVING

The Legislature took steps this session to support and move forward with the **Roads and Transit Plan**—combining a public vote on transit (**Sound Transit Phase 2**) with a public vote on road improvements (Regional Transportation Improvement District – **RTID**).

You will have an opportunity this November to vote on whether to approve the integrated Roads and Transit Plan. In addition to providing funding to replace the 520 bridge, several South King County projects will also receive funding.

Completing SR 509

The ballot measure will provide nearly \$1 billion to fully fund the connection of SR 509 to Interstate 5.

This project will ease congestion on I-5 at Southcenter hill, improve service between industrial areas by allowing up to 9,000 trucks per day to bypass I-5, SR 99 and local streets, and provide south access to SeaTac Airport.

I-405/SR 167 Interchange

The I-405/SR 167 interchange is one of the most congested interchanges in the state. The project requires an additional \$360 million from the November’s roads and transit package.

When completed, a direct HOV flyover between I-405 and SR 167 will be provided and the “weave” for both northbound and southbound traffic will be eliminated. **November’s roads and transit package also calls for additional lane capacity on the entire SR 167.**

Light Rail Extension

Also included in the Roads and Transit Plan is an extension of the light rail system from SeaTac to Tacoma and from the University of Washington to Lynnwood. There are stops and new park & rides included in South King County:

- SeaTac – South 200th Street
- Kent/Des Moines Road
- Redondo/Star Lake

The **Roads and Transit Plan** will increase overall traffic speed in the region by ten percent and reduce total delays 25 percent. These investments are crucial in building a world class, 21st century transportation system that can handle current needs as well as future growth.



33rd Legislative District



Representative
**Dave
Upthegrove**

2007 Session Review

Dear Neighbor:

The 2007 legislative session is finished. The story from the session is positive and simple:

- The state budget is balanced.
- There were zero tax increases.
- We have more than \$1 billion in reserves for the future.
- WA unemployment is only 4.4%...the lowest ever recorded in the history of our state.

Because of our responsible stewardship, we were able to make positive investments in **education** and **health care**:

- ✓ 2000 additional slots for head-start and early childhood learning
- ✓ phasing-in all day kindergarten
- ✓ increased teacher pay and decreased class sizes
- ✓ 10,000 more slots for students in our colleges & universities
- ✓ provided 39,000 low-income children with affordable health insurance

And...we finished our work on time!

In order to have good jobs and a strong economy, we need to keep South King County a great place to live. Inside you will find a brief report on several 2007 legislative issues:

Jobs and the Economy

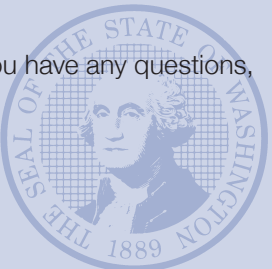
Environmental Protection

Transportation

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Dave

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KEVIN’S BILL

Last year, I was introduced to Kevin Britt, a young man with developmental disabilities and a former Kentridge High School student. Kevin and his parents shared a frustrating experience they endured during Kevin’s senior year.

Under the Kent School District’s graduation policy, Kevin would have been denied the opportunity to participate in graduation ceremonies because he was going to continue to receive special education services past his 4th year of high school.

The Kent School District did eventually change its policy in time for Kevin to participate in graduation, but several school districts across the state still restrict students with special needs from walking at graduation with their classmates.

This simply didn’t make sense so I introduced Kevin’s Bill.

I am pleased to report that Kevin’s Bill passed into law. Now students with developmental disabilities must be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies with their classmates.

Just as Kevin’s family brought this concern to my attention, I welcome your ideas and input for changes to state law.



Kevin and his parents Howard and Kathy Britt, visited Dave in Olympia.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Local Economic Development

Kent Events Center



The Kent Events Center will give South King County a family-friendly venue for sports and entertainment...including Thunderbirds hockey! The Thunderbirds are a junior-league amateur hockey team.

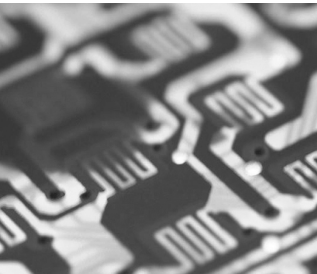
The center will seat up to 6,500 – and will be the perfect venue for high school graduations, sporting events — even trade shows.

I am pleased to report the Legislature took action to partner with the city of Kent to get this project built. Our legislative delegation worked hard with city and community leaders

to successfully secure more than \$25 million for this investment in our community.

Center for Advanced Manufacturing

Manufacturing businesses in South King County provide thousands of good paying jobs with benefits—and are the backbone of our local economy. To help keep these jobs here in South King County, I have continued to support the development of a Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Kent to provide research, training and educational support for this sector. This year, the Legislature approved an additional \$150,000 so the center can open in 2008.



Local Transportation Projects

Des Moines Bridge Repairs – The 2007 state transportation budget includes new funding to the City of Des Moines to help repair and re-open the Saltwater State Park Bridge and to help finish work associated with the Marine View Drive Bridge.

Kent Congestion Relief – With major rail improvements planned at 228th, 212th, and Willis Streets through Kent, it is important that we take the necessary steps to mitigate traffic impacts.

\$2.5 million worth of projects will be implemented to keep things moving in the valley during construction.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In order to attract businesses and employees to Washington, we need to preserve our clean air, clear water and overall quality of life.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program



The Legislature, with my support, doubled the funding for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grants to local governments for habitat restoration and recreation improvements, including:

Koch Farm – purchasing the development rights on 6.16 acres of farmland in the Kent Valley that is critical habitat and active farmland adjacent to the Green River.

Green River – Purchasing the Rosso Nursery, a Lower Green River property that totals 36.7 acres and 0.92 miles of undeveloped shoreline for public open space and salmon habitat restoration.



Riverview Park – developing a 15-acre waterfront park with a boat launch, accessible fishing areas, picnic facilities, restroom, parking and trails. Funding for salmon habitat restoration is also provided.

Puget Sound

Just below Puget Sound’s pristine surface, over 40 species of marine life are threatened or endangered, while septic tanks and stormwater continue to pour toxins into the Sound.

As Chairman of the House Select Committee on Puget Sound, I was successful in shepherding legislation through the House and into law to tackle these problems head-on. We created the Puget Sound Partnership—a new entity to create an action plan to restore the health of Puget Sound by 2020. The Puget Sound Partnership will:

- ✓ Coordinate clean-up efforts
- ✓ Provide accountability
- ✓ Manage salmon recovery
- ✓ Clean up the Sound by 2020

To jump-start the efforts, we provided \$240 million in new funding for habitat restoration, toxic cleanup, and pollution control—including new funding for the Duwamish cleanup in South King County.